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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB2004/000216

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 F16L33/24 F16L33/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 F16L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	BE 383 199 A (CREMERS FRANÇOIS) 30 November 1931 (1931-11-30)  page 1, line 1 - page 2, line 2 figures	1-3, 6-11, 15-17
X	CH 218 441 A (SCHWEIZERISCHE DRAHT & GUMMIWE) 15 December 1941 (1941-12-15)  the whole document	1,2,4, 6-11,13, 14,16,17
X	US 2 439 199 A (BORG GUSTAVE A) 6 April 1948 (1948-04-06)  column 2, line 27 - column 3, line 11 figures	1-4, 6-11, 15-17

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

\*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

\*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

\*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

\*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 May 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

26/05/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2 399 791 A (CONROY CHARLES L) 7 May 1946 (1946-05-07) the whole document -----	1-14,17

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 18

The redaction of claim 18 solely refers broadly to the description and the drawings as a whole, claim 18 does not define any clear subject-matter. This contradicts Rule 6.2a) and Article 6 PCT.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
BE 383199	A	NONE	
CH 218441	A	15-12-1941	NONE
US 2439199	A	06-04-1948	NONE
US 2399791	A	07-05-1946	NONE